

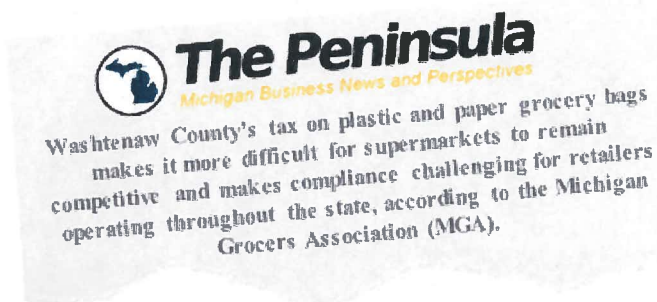
Submitted by  
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## **Support SB 853 to Stop Local Container Taxes**

***SB853 Limits Punitive Taxes and Regulations, Protects Consumer Choice, Supports the Michigan Economy***

Washtenaw County imposed a regressive **10-cent per bag tax** on consumers earlier this summer, a tax local merchants are required to enforce. This tax was the first of its kind in Michigan and sets a troubling precedent. It's a signal that other jurisdictions might also pursue local bag tax fundraisers, bans and fees at the expense of shoppers and businesses.

**We need to stop these punitive taxes and regulations from spreading across Michigan.**



Local regulations have **not been shown to drive meaningful reductions in waste or litter**. Worse, a disparate network of local packaging regulations would **impose a burden on Michigan job creators and strip consumers of their right to make packaging choices** for themselves.

SB 853 would establish that the state is the only governmental body that should consider packaging regulations in order to **preserve customer choice and eliminate problems associated with a patchwork of packaging regulations**.

### **SUPPORT SB 853 TO LIMIT OVERREGULATION AND PREVENT A PATCHWORK OF BURDENSOME REGULATIONS**

- Regulations that vary from city to city **create confusion for consumers** and a **government-mandated competitive disadvantage for certain businesses**.
- Differing packaging regulations within a state market can significantly burden retail and food establishments, especially those with more than one location in Michigan.
- Banning products is not a core function of local government. If proven necessary, bans or taxes on single products should be done at a statewide level to ensure uniformity in commerce and avoid unnecessary red tape.



**“Plastic Bag Tax Hurts Consumers, Businesses and Does Little for the Environment”**

### **SUPPORT SB 853 TO KEEP CHOICE IN THE CHECKOUT LANE**

- Consumer choice, not a desire for local control, is the overriding principle that should direct public policy.
- When individuals are unable to make packaging decisions for themselves and businesses are forced to comply with burdensome packaging regulations, consumers ultimately pay a price – often through higher grocery costs.

### **SUPPORT SB 853 BECAUSE IT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MICHIGAN ECONOMY**

- Hundreds of thousands of workers in America's packaging industry depend on the ability to sell and distribute the products they make. In Michigan, thousands of retail, manufacturing and recycling jobs are dependent on these products.
- Maintaining the ability to manufacture products that are heavily re-used and 100 percent recyclable is the right thing to do for Michigan's economy and the consumers who appreciate having a choice in the checkout line.

SB 853 will stop a new form of taxes in Michigan, preserve individual freedom, protect local jobs and uphold Michigan's standing as a desirable place for working families, businesses and tourism.

### **SUPPORTERS OF SB 853:**

**MICHIGAN GROCERS ASSOCIATION - MICHIGAN RETAILERS ASSOCIATION - MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS, MI - MICHIGAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL - AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE BAG ALLIANCE - MICHIGAN LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION - KEY GREEN SOLUTIONS - PETOSKEY PLASTICS - MICHIGAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION - WINE INSTITUTE - ASSOCIATED FOOD & PETROLEUM DEALERS - AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE OF MICHIGAN**